

REMARKS

Claims 18-33 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-27, and 29-31 are rejected. Claims 20-21, 24, 28, 32, and 33 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 18, 23, and 30 have been amended. Claims 24, 32, and 33 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 18, 19, and 22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 18, 19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0215200 to Yokokawa, et al. ("Yokokawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,087 to Rice ("Rice"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 18 has been amended to substantially recite the elements of claim 33, now canceled. Specifically, amended claim 18 recites a core comprising a single core region, the single core region having a longitudinal optical axis and incorporating radially dependent amounts of dopant material and selected transparent oxides at each given radius from the longitudinal optical axis, the dopant material and the selected transparent oxides being selected to provide a measure of independent control over both a desired refractive index profile and a desired radially dependent Raman gain coefficient profile. Claim 33 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18, as well as claims 19 and 22 which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 23, 25, 26 and 29-31 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 23, 25, 26 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokokawa and Rice in view of WO 02/50964 A2 to Clarkson ("Clarkson"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 23 has been amended to substantially recite the elements of claim 24, now canceled. Specifically, amended claim 23 recites that the refractive index profile and the Raman gain coefficient profile both having a generally parabolic shape with a peak coinciding with the optical axis of the fiber. Claim 24 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 23 should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23, as well as claims 25-27 and 29 which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 has been amended to substantially recite the elements of claim 32, now canceled. Specifically, amended claim 30 recites that the multimode fiber incorporating a minimum amount of dopant material near an interface between the core and a cladding region with a gradual transition to a maximum amount at the optical axis. Claim 32 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 30 should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30, as well as claim 31 which depends therefrom, is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claim 29 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokokawa and Rice in view of Clarkson as outlined in the rejection of Claim 22. Claim 29 depends from claim 23. As described above, claim 23 should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokokawa, Rice, Clarkson and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0161361 to Paldus, et al. ("Paldus"). Claim 27 depends from claim 23. As described above, claim 23 should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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